

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06

NEA-10 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /176 W

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R 071828Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14428

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT

REF: LONDON 13419

1. OFFICIALS AT THE FCO AND CABINET OFFICE EXPECT THAT
THE ENERGY PROBLEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST WILL OVERSHADOW
ALL OTHER SUBJECTS AT THE DECEMBER 14-15 EC SUMMIT.
THEY BELIEVE THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE SUMMITS

WILL BE THE ONLY OTHER SUBJECT THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED
AT LENGTH. THE BRITISH HOPE THAT EC REGIONAL POLICY
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WILL BE DISCUSSED AT LEAST BRIEFLY, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE

ON THE WHOLE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE BY THE EC COUNCIL ON THIS ISSUE. OUR SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY PAPER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT MEETING. THEY DOUBT THAT THE US-EC DECLARATION WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH.

2. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL BE THE ONLY MINISTER WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HEATH TO COPENHAGEN. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL JOIN THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ONLY BRIEFLY, AT THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE MEETING. THEY WILL MEET AMONG THEMSELVES THE REST OF THE TIME. ONLY A HANDFUL OF BRITISH OFFICIALS WILL JOIN HEATH AND SIR ALEC IN COPENHAGEN. THESE WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE OLIVER WRIGHT AND JOHN ROBINSON OF THE FCO; PATRICK NAIRNE, SECOND PERMANENT SECRETARY AT THE CABINET OFFICE; AND MICHAEL PALLISER, THE UK'S AMBASSADOR TO THE EC IN BRUSSELS.

3. THE BRITISH ARE FLEXIBLE ON THE FORM OF FUTURE EC SUMMITS. THEY ARE WAITING TO SEE HOW THIS ONE GOES, AND WHAT THE OTHER MEMBER STATES WANT. THEY BELIEVE IT IS DESIRABLE TO HOLD INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THIS KIND ON A REGULAR BASIS (SEE REFTEL). THEY BELIEVE THAT THE EC COMMISSION SHOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EC SUMMITS. THEY HAVE NO DESIRE TO USE SUMMIT MEETINGS AS A KIND OF POLITICAL DIRECTORATE TO SUPERSEDE DECISIONS BY THE REGULAR EC INSTITUTIONS. THEY SEE THEM AS A WAY TO FURTHER THE POLITICAL COHESION OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO MAP OUT BROAD STRATEGY ON EC ISSUES.

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